

In the claims

~~1-claim~~ What is claimed is:

1.(Currently Amended) An armrest and back member for a seat having a seat bottom ~~with a wherein the~~ back member ~~that may be is~~ selective ~~rotated~~ rotatable between a substantially vertical position to a substantially horizontal position with respect to ~~said the seat bottom~~, said back member having a first pivot pin attached thereto that moves in an arc as said back member is rotated between said vertical and horizontal positions, said armrest comprising:

a housing defined by parallel first and second side walls that each have a first end and a second end with ~~an a~~ first opening located adjacent to said second end, said housing being located on said back member by said first pivot pin extending through said first opening in each of said first and second side walls such that said first end of said housing may pivot with respect to said first pivot pin;

a first plate fixed to said first pivot pin and located between said first and second side walls, said first plate having a first surface that defines a first stop and a second surface that defines a second stop;

a second plate fixed to said first pivot pin and located between said first plate and said second side wall, said second plate having an arcuate surface thereon with a first plurality of teeth thereon that extend from a first location to a second location, said first location being ~~matched~~ aligned with said first stop and said second location being ~~associated~~ aligned with said second stop;

a first lever having a first end and a second end, said first end being fixed to said first end of said first side wall to define a cantilevered beam and ~~to~~ position a second plurality of teeth ~~thereon adjacent on a~~ said second end thereof in engagement with ~~on~~ said first plurality of teeth on said second plate;

a second lever having a first end and a second end, said second lever end having an oval slot located adjacent said second end thereof;

a ball that is located in said oval slot;

a second pivot pin that is secured to said first and second side walls and extending extends through said second lever to locate said ball adjacent said second plate with said ball in tangential engagement with said second side wall and in contact engagement with said first lever; and

an actuator for applying an input force to said first end of said second lever ~~causing that causes~~ said second end of said second lever to pivot about said

second pivot pin and move said ball on said the second side wall such that a force is applied to said first lever through said contact engagement with of said ball that causes said first lever to laterally move toward said first side wall as a function of a flexure ~~the capability~~ of said cantilevered beam to bend such that said second plurality of teeth are moved move out of engagement with said first plurality of teeth and are aligned on said first plate between said first stop and said second stop and to thereafter permit said first end of said housing to be moved by pivoting about said first pivot pin to a desired alignment with respect to said seat bottom, said first lever on termination of said input force resiliently returning to alignment with said second plate such that said second plurality of teeth again mesh with said first plurality of teeth to retain said first end of said housing in said desired alignment with said seat bottom.

2. (Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 1 further including:

a first guide is connected to said second end of said first lever to prevent movement of said second end of said first lever with respect to said second plate that would permit said second plurality of teeth from radially moving with respect to said first plurality of teeth.

3.(Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 1 wherein the an arcuate distance between said first location and said second location of said first plurality of teeth on said second plate encompasses an entire circle.

4.(Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 1 wherein said an arcuate distance between said first location and said second location of said second plate is such that said first end of said housing may be aligned in a horizontal plane with respect to said seat bottom when said back member is rotated between said vertical position and said horizontal position.

~~The armrest as recited in claim 1 wherein said arcuate distance between said first location and said second location is such that said first end of said housing may be aligned in a horizontal plane with respect said seat when said back member is rotated between said vertical position and said horizontal position.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 1 further including:

a second guide that is connected to said second side wall and ~~engaging said second lever adjacent~~ engages said first end of said second lever to assist in

retaining said second lever in a parallel alignment with said second side wall such that said ball always remains in tangential contact with said second side wall.

6.(Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 1 wherein at every desired alignment said engagement of said second plurality of teeth essentially engage all of said with said first plurality teeth ~~essentially consists of the entire second plurality of teeth at every desired alignment.~~

7.(Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 1 wherein said first side wall is separated from said second side wall by uniform member that extends from said first end to said second end such that said housing has a U-shape.

8.(Currently Amended) An armrest and back member for a seat having a base ~~with a~~ wherein the back member that may be is selective rotated rotatable between a substantially vertical position to a substantially horizontal position with respect to ~~said seat the base~~, said back member having a first pivot pin attached thereto that moves in an arc when said back member is rotated between said vertical position and said horizontal position, said armrest comprising:

a housing defined by parallel first and second side walls that each have a first end and a second end with an a first opening located adjacent said second end, said housing being ~~connected to~~ located on said back member by locating said first pivot pin extending through in the first openings opening in each of in said first and second side walls such that said first end of said housing may pivot about said first pivot pin;

a plate fixed to said first pivot pin and located between said first side wall and said second side wall, said plate having ~~a first plurality of radial teeth thereon on an arcuate peripheral surface thereof~~ with a first plurality of radial teeth thereon;

a first lever having a first end and a second end, said first end of said first lever being fixed to said first end of said first side wall to define a cantilevered beam, said first lever having an opening adjacent ~~said second end~~ with a second plurality of inwardly extending radial teeth adjacent said second end, said second plurality of teeth meshing with said first plurality of teeth on said plate;

a second lever having a first end and a second end, said second end lever having an oval slot therein that is located adjacent said second end;

a ball located in said oval slot;

a second pivot pin secured to said first and second side walls and extending through said second lever to ~~locate~~ position said ball adjacent said plate with said ball being located in tangential engagement with said second side wall and in contact engagement with said first lever; and

an actuator for applying an input force to said first end of said second lever that causes ~~causing~~ said second end of said second lever to pivot about said second pivot pin and move said ball on said second side wall such that a force is applied to said first lever through said contact engagement with ~~of~~ said ball that causes said first lever to laterally move toward said first side wall as a function of a ~~the~~ resiliency of said cantilevered beam such that said second plurality of teeth are moved ~~move~~ out of mesh engagement with said first plurality of teeth and to thereafter permit said first end of said housing to pivot about said first pivot pin until ~~to~~ a desired alignment is achieved with respect to said ~~seat~~ base, said first lever on termination of said input force resiliently returning said second plurality of teeth into meshing engagement with said first plurality of teeth to retain said first end of said housing in said desired alignment with said seat.

9.(Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 8 further comprising:

a guide that is connected to said second side wall and engaging engages said second lever at a position adjacent said first end thereof to assist in retaining said second lever in a parallel alignment with said second side wall such that said ball remains is in tangential contact with said second side wall.

10.(Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 9 wherein at every desired alignment ~~said meshing engagement of~~ said second plurality of teeth essentially mesh with all of ~~with~~ said first plurality teeth ~~essentially consists of the entire second plurality of teeth at every desired alignment~~.

11.(Currently Amended) The armrest as recited in claim 10 wherein said opening in ~~said opening~~ said second end of the second lever has a first mean radius that is larger than a second mean radius for the peripheral surface of said plate such that said first and second plurality of teeth mesh to hold said housing in a fixed position with respect to said first pivot pin ~~but allows~~ and yet allows said second end of said first lever to laterally move ~~lateral movement of said second end~~ as a result of said ball acting on said first lever to permit ~~permits~~ said second plurality of teeth

to be disengaged from said first plurality of teeth and thereafter allow said first end of said housing to pivot about said first pivot pin.

12.(Currently Amended) An armrest and back member for a seat having a base ~~with a wherein the~~ back member ~~that may be~~ is selective rotated between a substantially vertical position to a substantially horizontal position with respect to ~~said seat the base~~, said back member having a first pivot pin attached thereto that moves in an arcuate plane when said back member is rotated between said vertical position and said horizontal position, said armrest comprising:

a housing defined by parallel first and second side walls ~~that wherein~~ each have a first end and a second end with ~~an a~~ first opening located adjacent said second end, said housing being ~~connected to~~ located on said back member by ~~locating~~ said first pivot pin extending through ~~in the first openings opening in each of~~ in said first and second side walls such that said first end of said housing may pivot about said first pivot pin;

a plate fixed to said first pivot pin and located between said first side wall and said second side wall, said plate having an arcuate peripheral surface with a first plurality of radial teeth thereon;

a first lever having a first end and a second end, said first end of said first lever being fixed to said first end of said first side wall to define a cantilevered beam, said first lever having an opening adjacent said second end with a second plurality of inwardly extending¹⁸ radial teeth ~~thereof~~ thereon, said second plurality of teeth meshing with said first plurality of teeth;

a second lever having a first end and a second end, said second end lever having a tapered radial projection that is located adjacent said second end thereof, said tapered radial projection having an apex that is located near a top of said second lever;

a second pivot pin secured to said first and second side walls and extending through said second lever to locate said radial projection on said second lever adjacent said plate such that ~~with~~ said apex ~~engaging~~ engages said first lever;

an actuator for applying an input force to said first end of said second lever ~~causing that causes~~ said second end of said second lever to pivot about said second pivot pin and move said tapered radial projection such that a force is applied to said first lever that causes said first lever to laterally move toward said first side wall as a function of the a resiliency of said cantilevered beam and correspondingly

~~move~~ such that said second plurality of teeth move out of mesh engagement with said first plurality of teeth ~~and to thereafter~~ permit said first end of said housing to pivot about said first pivot pin ~~and be moved into~~ to a desired alignment with respect to said ~~seat base~~, said first lever on termination of said input force resiliently returning said second plurality of teeth ~~into~~ meshing engagement with said first plurality of teeth to retain said first end of said housing in said desired alignment.

13.(Currently Amended) An armrest and back member for a seat having a base with a wherein the back member that may be is selective rotated rotatable between a substantially vertical position to a substantially horizontal position with respect to said ~~seat base~~, said back member having a pivot pin attached thereto that moves in an arc when said back member is rotated between said vertical position and said horizontal position, said armrest comprising:

a housing defined by parallel first and second side walls that each have a first end and a second end with an a first opening adjacent said second end, said housing being ~~connected to~~ located said back member by ~~locating~~ said pivot pin extending through in the first openings in the first opening in each of said first and second side walls such that said first end of said housing may pivot about said first pivot pin;

a plate fixed to said pivot pin and located between said first side wall and said second side wall, said plate having ~~a first plurality of radial teeth thereon on an~~ arcuate peripheral surface with a first plurality of radial teeth thereon thereof;

a lever having a first end and a second end, said first end of said lever being fixed to said first end of said first side wall to define a cantilevered beam, said lever having an opening ~~adjacent said second end~~ with a second plurality of inwardly extending radial teeth located adjacent said second end, said second plurality of teeth meshing with said first plurality of teeth;

~~an actuator having a first end and a second end, said second end~~ actuator having an circular slot therein that is located adjacent said second end;

a ball located in said circular slot; and

a guide surrounding said ~~second lever actuator~~ to locate said ball adjacent said plate with wherein said ball is in tangential engagement with said second side wall and in contact engagement with said first lever, said first end of said actuator receiving an input force ~~through said first end~~ that is transferred to said ~~second lever~~ causing said second end thereof to move said ball on said second side wall such

that a force is applied to said lever through said contact engagement causing said lever to laterally move toward said first side wall as a function of the a resiliency of said cantilevered beam such that said second plurality of teeth are moved ~~move~~ out of mesh engagement with said first plurality of teeth and to thereafter permit said first end of said housing to pivot about said pivot pin and be moved to a desired alignment with respect to said seat base, said lever on termination of said input force resiliently returning said second plurality of teeth into meshing engagement with said first plurality of teeth to retain said first end of said housing in said desired alignment.

14.(Currently Amended) The armrest and back member as recited in claim 13 further including a spring that acts on said actuator to maintain said ball in tangential engagement with said second side wall and in contact engagement with said lever.